

## Other UDOT Traffic Information Brochures:

- Speed Limits
- School Zone Safety
- Traffic Signals
- Left Turn Traffic Signals
- Work Zone Safety

## For More Information:

Please contact a UDOT Region Traffic Engineer located in your region of the State:

Northern Utah (801) 620-1600

Salt Lake County (801) 975-4900

Utah County (801) 227-8000

Southern Utah (435) 893-4799

Or visit the UDOT website at  
<http://www.udot.utah.gov>

## Pedestrian Signal Safety Tips

- If there is a Pedestrian Push Button at the crosswalk, be sure to use it;
- Never assume that a driver sees you in the crosswalk, or as you are stepping into the roadway;
- Parents, teach pedestrian safety to your children;
- Use extra caution at traffic signals where there are no pedestrian signals to be sure you cross at the proper time;



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## PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS



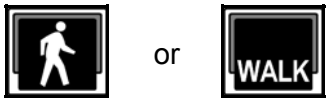
**Division of Traffic  
and Safety**

# Pedestrian Signals

Pedestrian signals are used to guide pedestrians across intersections safely by providing adequate time to cross the street. This brochure answers some commonly asked questions about pedestrian signals.

## ***What do the signals mean?***

### **Steady WALK Signal:**



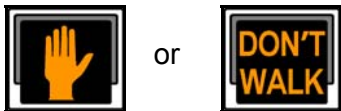
You may start crossing when the steady WALK signal is on. Watch for turning vehicles before leaving the curb and while crossing.

### **Flashing DON'T WALK Signal or Countdown Timer:**



Don't start crossing if the flashing DON'T WALK signal or countdown timer is displayed. If you have already begun to cross the street, you will have enough time to get across safely.

### **Steady DON'T WALK Signal:**



You should not be in the crosswalk when the Steady DON'T WALK signal is on. Remain behind the curb. Wait for the next steady WALK signal.

## ***Why does the WALK signal change before I get across the street?***

The WALK signal tells you that it is legal to start crossing at the crosswalk. A few seconds after you have begun to cross, the flashing DON'T WALK signal will begin. The flashing DON'T WALK signal tells pedestrians who have arrived too late at the crosswalk that it is no longer permissible to begin to cross. The flashing DON'T WALK is timed to provide enough time for pedestrians that have entered the crosswalk to complete the crossing. The traffic signal for on-coming traffic will remain red during the flashing DON'T WALK signal.

## ***Why is it necessary to push the button to cross the street? Why can't I just wait for the next green light?***

At some traffic signals, pedestrian push buttons are not necessary because the WALK signal is programmed to occur with every green light. This has been done at some intersections because of the high numbers of pedestrians crossing the street on a regular basis.

However, at most traffic signals, the pedestrian WALK signal will only appear if the button is pushed. A green light for vehicles alone does not guarantee that you will have enough time to safely walk across the street. The timing of the green light may be controlled only by the passage of vehicles, and may not be long enough for pedestrians to cross the road. Pushing the button and waiting for the WALK signal will ensure that you have enough time to cross safely.

Remember, it is illegal under Utah State Law to cross when the steady DON'T WALK signal is on.

## ***Why doesn't the WALK signal come on immediately when I push the button?***

Traffic signals are programmed to give green signals to traffic movements in a predetermined sequence. At a busy intersection, it may take as long as two minutes to go through a complete traffic signal cycle.

When you push the button, the traffic signal controller records your request for the WALK signal and schedules this request into its cycle. The WALK signal will appear as soon as all of the traffic movements already scheduled ahead of you are completed.

## ***When I have the WALK signal, do I have the right-of-way over turning vehicles?***

Yes, the WALK signal gives you the legal right-of-way while crossing the street. However, that will not protect you from careless drivers who do not know or do not obey the law. Always watch for turning vehicles when crossing the street. Particular care is necessary to avoid drivers making a right turn on red. Make eye contact with drivers to make sure that they see you.

Other suggestions for safely crossing the street at a traffic signal are:

- Stay in the crosswalk;
- Walk quickly, but do not run across the street;
- Be constantly aware of vehicles around you;
- If you are walking or jogging at dawn, dusk or at night wear bright clothing;
- An adult should accompany children across the street whenever possible.